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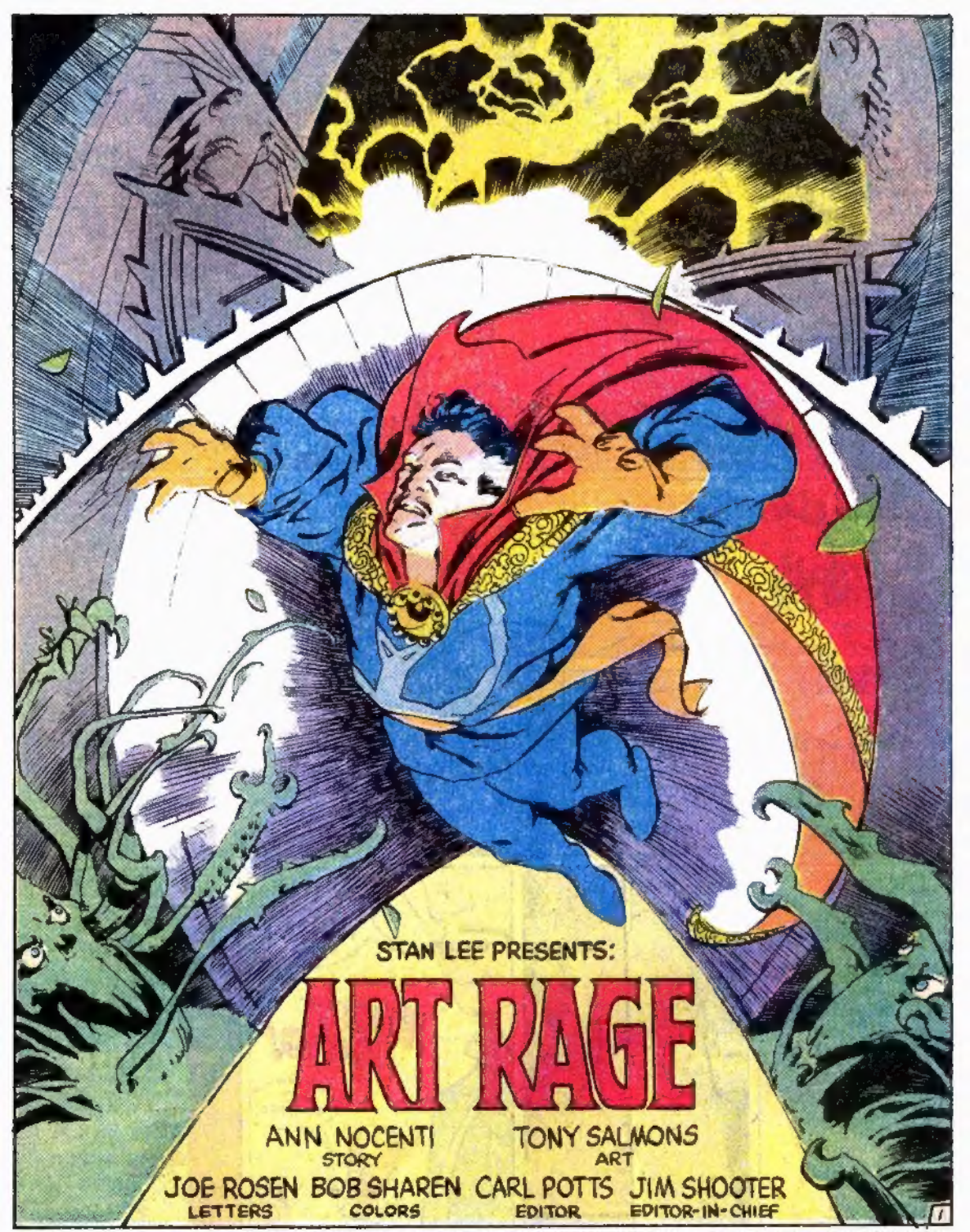

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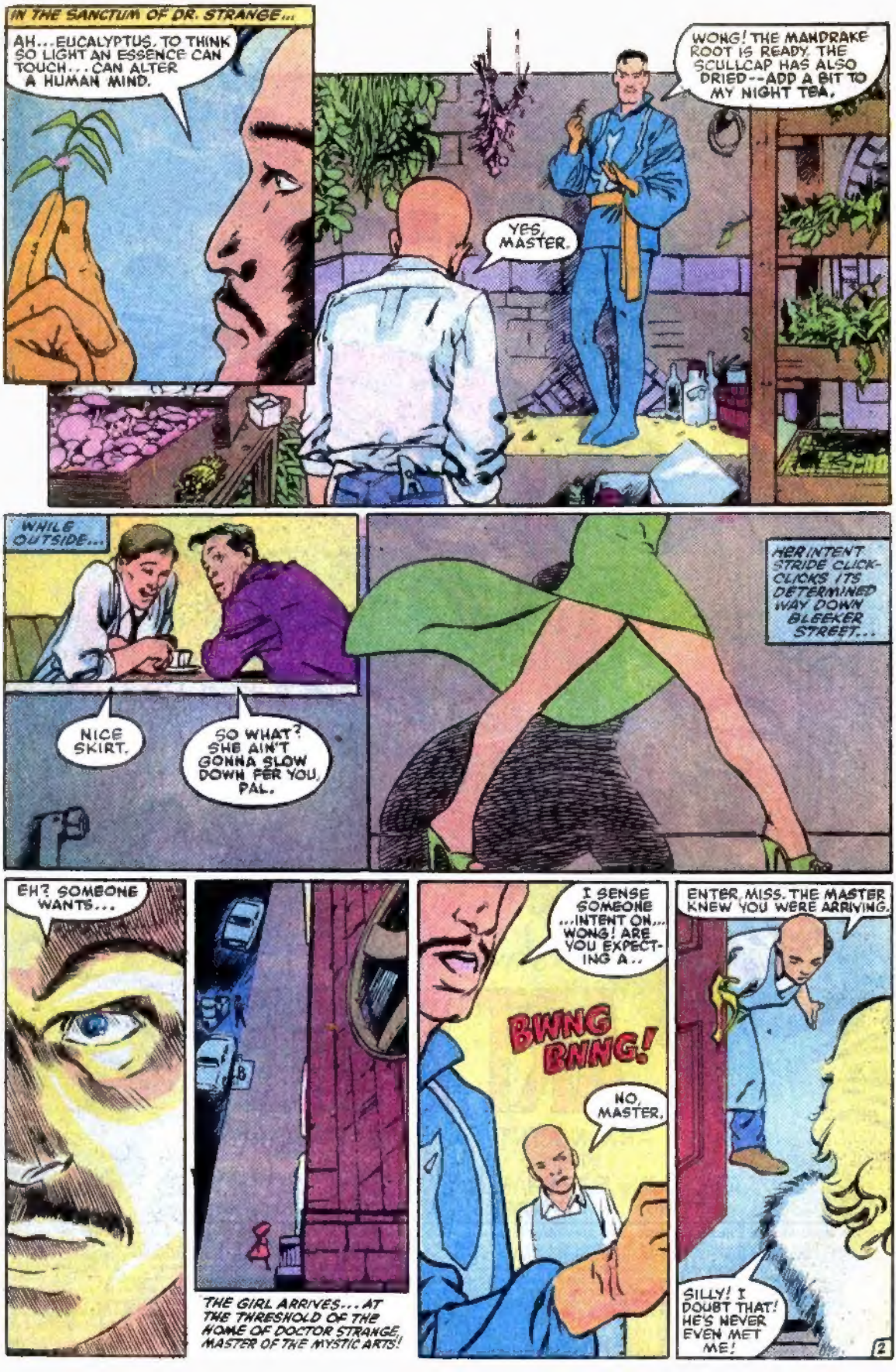
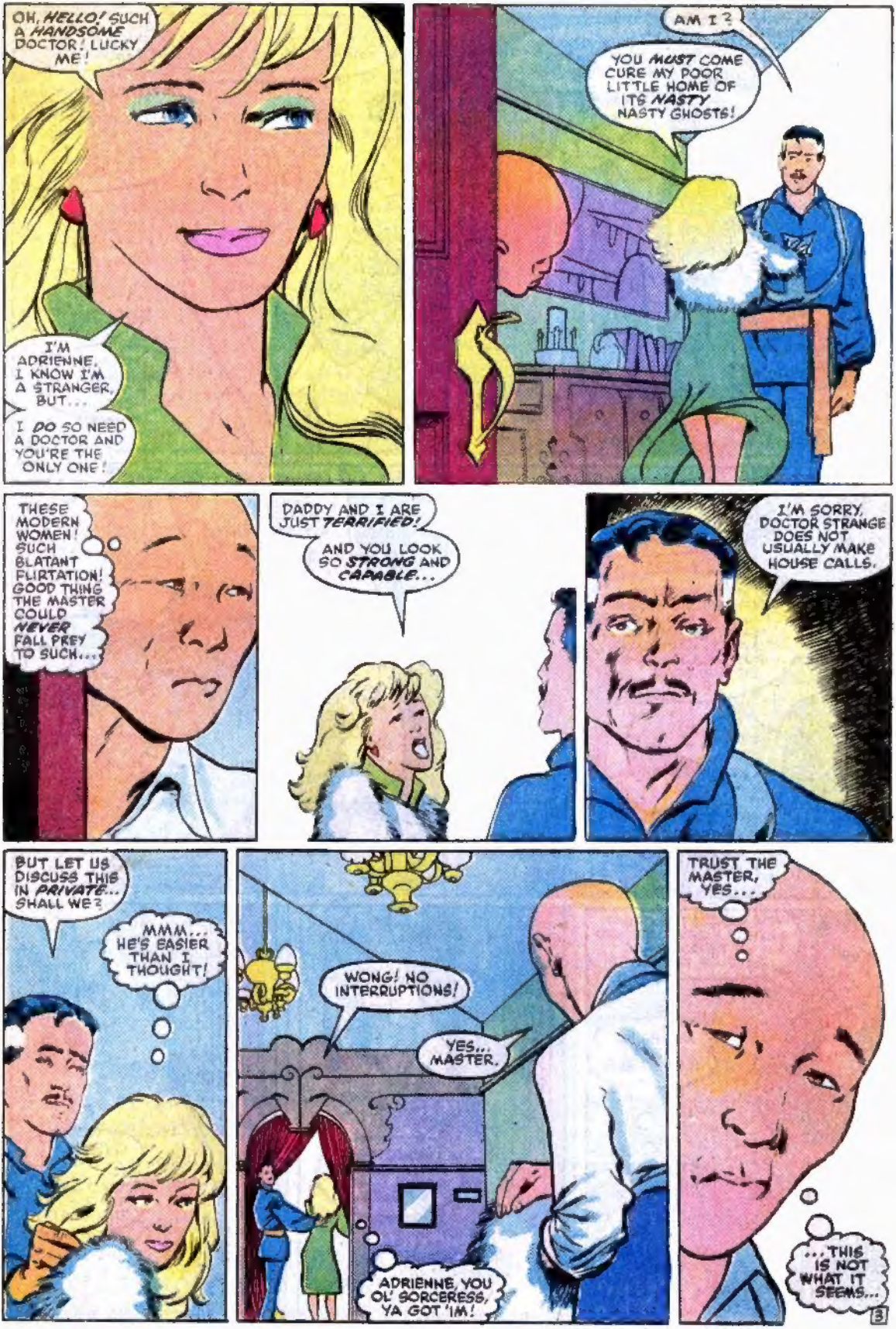
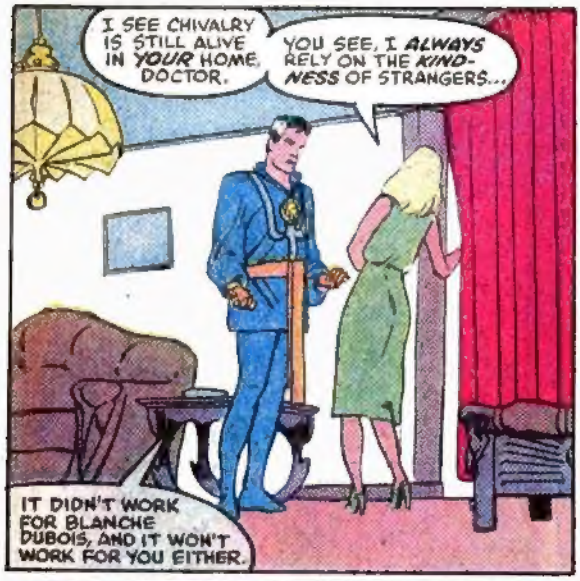
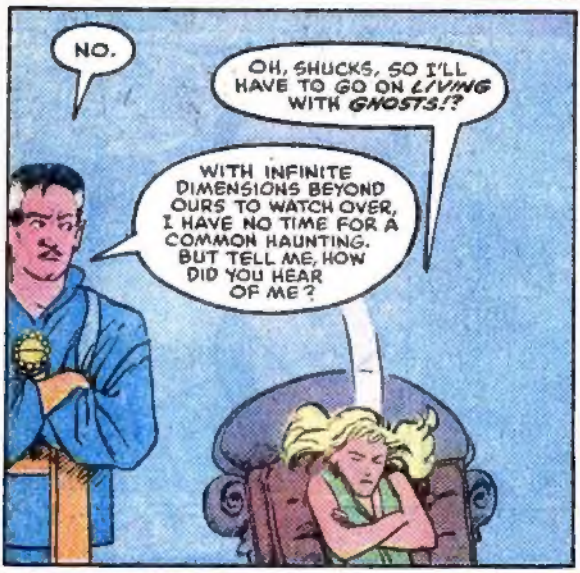
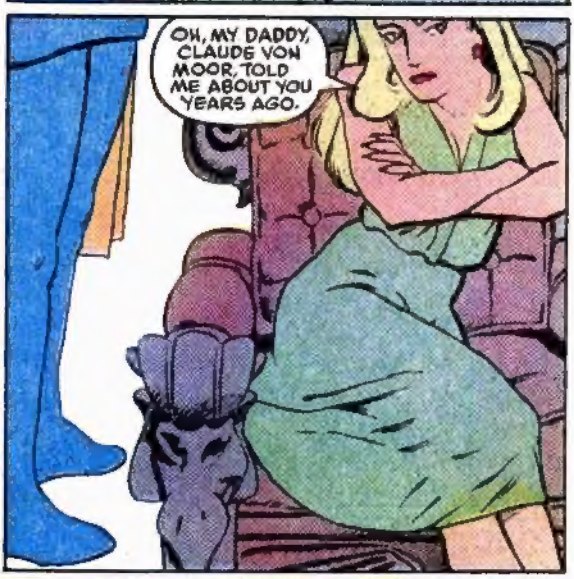

IN THE SANCTUM OF DR. STRANGE...
AH... EUCALYPTUS, TO THINK SO LIGHT AN ESSENCE CAN TOUCH... CAN ALTER A HUMAN MIND.
WONG! THE MANDRAKE ROOT IS READY. THE SCULLCAP HAS ALSO DRIED--ADD A BIT TO MY NIGHT TEA.
YES, MASTER.
WHILE OUTSIDE...
NICE SKIRT.
SO WHAT? SHE AIN'T GONNA SLOW DOWN FER YOU, PAL.
HER INTENT STRIDE CLICK-CLICKS ITS DETERMINED WAY DOWN BLEEKER STREET...
EH? SOMEONE WANTS...
THE GIRL ARRIVES... AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE HOME OF DOCTOR STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
I SENSE SOMEONE ...INTENT ON... WONG! ARE YOU EXPECTING A..
BWNG BNNG!
NO, MASTER.
ENTER, MISS. THE MASTER KNEW YOU WERE ARRIVING.
SILLY! I DOUBT THAT! HE'S NEVER EVEN MET ME!
2


OH, HELLO! SUCH A HANDSOME DOCTOR! LUCKY ME!
I'M ADRIENNE. I KNOW I'M A STRANGER, BUT...
I DO SO NEED A DOCTOR AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE!
AM I?
YOU MUST COME CURE MY POOR LITTLE HOME OF ITS NASTY NASTY GHOSTS!
THESE MODERN WOMEN! SUCH BLATANT FLIRTATION! GOOD THING THE MASTER COULD NEVER FALL PREY TO SUCH...
DADDY AND I ARE JUST TERRIFIED!
AND YOU LOOK SO STRONG AND CAPABLE...
I'M SORRY, DOCTOR STRANGE DOES NOT USUALLY MAKE HOUSE CALLS.
BUT LET US DISCUSS THIS IN PRIVATE... SHALL WE?
MMM... HE'S EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!
WONG! NO INTERRUPTIONS!
YES... MASTER.
ADRIENNE, YOU OL' SORCERESS, YA GOT 'IM!
TRUST THE MASTER, YES...
...THIS IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS...
3


I SEE CHIVALRY IS STILL ALIVE IN YOUR HOME, DOCTOR.
YOU SEE, I ALWAYS RELY ON THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS...
IT DIDN'T WORK FOR BLANCHE DUBOIS, AND IT WON'T WORK FOR YOU EITHER.

MY DEAR, WITH ALL MY YEARS AS MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS, DO YOU PRESUME TO THINK I CAN BE TAKEN IN BY THE SORCERY OF FEMALE MAGIC?
POTENT AS IT MAY BE, I AM CERTAINLY INVULNERABLE TO THE MYSTIQUE AND MAGNETISM YOU ARE ATTEMPTING TO CONJURE.
IT ISN'T EVEN WORKING A TINSY BIT...?


NO.
OH, SHUCKS, SO I'LL HAVE TO GO ON LIVING WITH GHOSTS!?
WITH INFINITE DIMENSIONS BEYOND OURS TO WATCH OVER, I HAVE NO TIME FOR A COMMON HAUNTING. BUT TELL ME, HOW DID YOU HEAR OF ME?


OH, MY DADDY, CLAUDE VON MOOR, TOLD ME ABOUT YOU YEARS AGO.

VON MOOR! THE GREAT ARTIST! I HAVE WATCHED HIS ARTISTIC GENIUS DEVELOP FOR YEARS!
MAYBE HE DOESN'T LIKE GIRLS.

WONG! PACK MY OVERNIGHT BAG. I LEAVE AT ONCE.

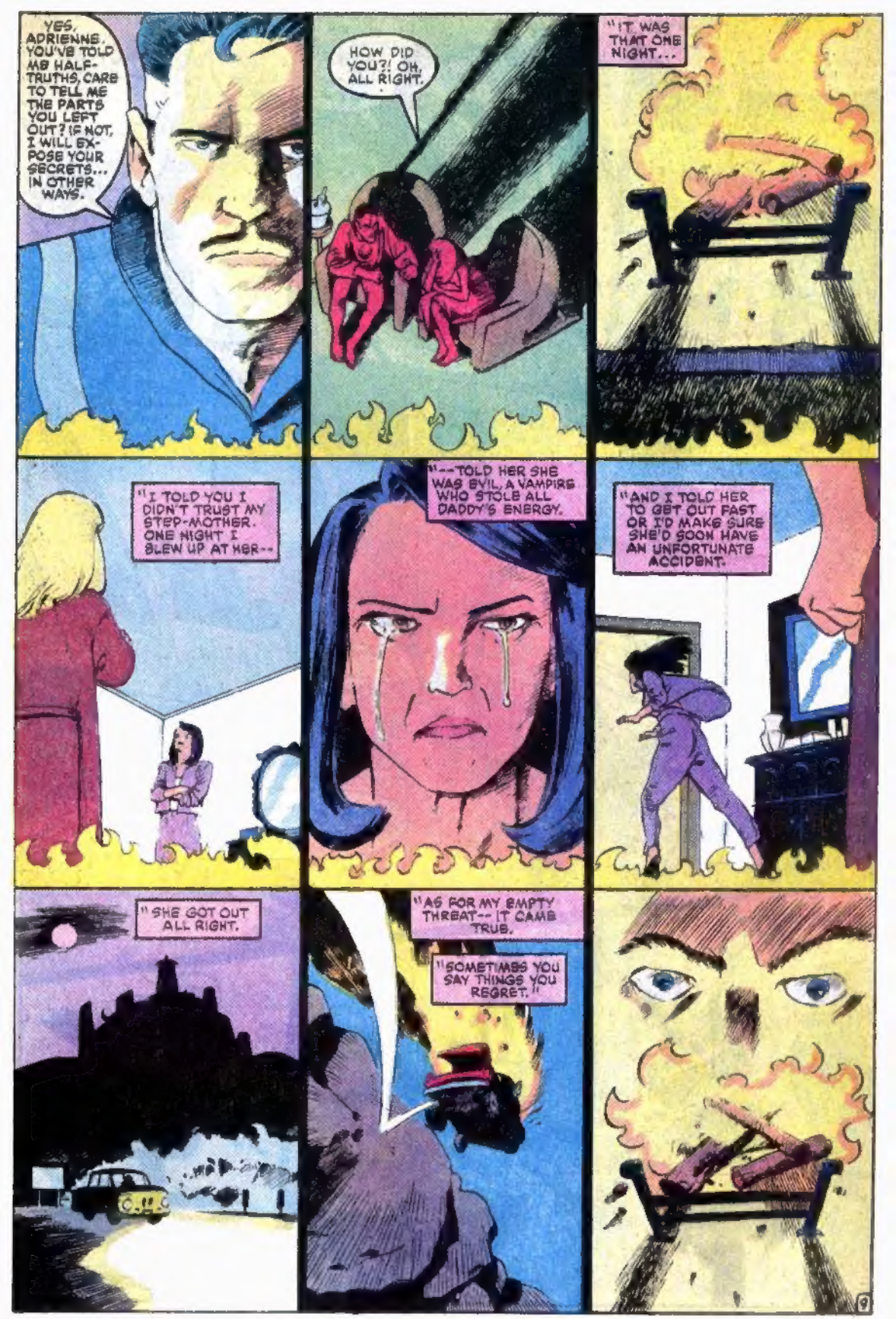
OVERNIGHT ...BAG...?
WHO AM I TO QUESTION THE MASTER?
4

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE, STRANGELY, IMPOSSIBLY...
GLASSES! GLASSES?
CAN'T SEE TOO GOOD, OLD MAN.
OH... MISCREANT SPECS, SPECS?
?
KRRNCH KRACK
CRACK?? UH.
FFFT!
OH, GLASSES GLASSES, SAD SPECS.
NOW WHERE? MMM...CAN'T SEE. OLD MAN.
PNIK!
5

THAT EVENING.
GOTHIC, ROCOCO, NOUVEAU, DECO, MEDIEVAL, ASIAN... THE JUXTAPOSITIONS ARE TRULY ARRESTING! IT IS LIKE SEEING YOUR FATHER'S DRAWINGS IN THREE-DIMENSIONAL FORM.
OH, DADDY GUSHES TALENT. MAYBE TOO MUCH!
YES, QUITE A MIND! ONE WONDERS IF THE ART IMITATES THE LIFE...
YOU MEAN, IS DADDY CRAZY? HE DOES SPEND ALL HIS TIME HIDING IN THAT HIGH TURRET...
SEQUESTERED IN HIS EBONY TOWER, EH?
AS IT IS WITHOUT, SO IT IS WITHIN.
YEAH, HE DID UP THE WHOLE HOUSE.
ALLOW ME... TO BREATHE... THE EMANATIONS... I READ NOTHING ABNORMAL...
KINDA CUTE, WISH HE'D SHAVE.
...JUST ONE STRONG ESSENCE...
THAT WOULD BE DADDY.
I THINK I HEAR HIM NOW. DADDY?
6

SPECS SPECS. EH?
DADDY, THIS IS DOCTOR STRANGE...
AN HONOR, SIR! LONG HAVE I BEEN AWED BY YOUR WORK...
MY WORK?
WHAT WORK?
OH...GOSH. I'M SO...IT'S ALL MY FAULT... HIS MADNESS I MEAN...OH, NEVER MIND, I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM, DOCTOR.
HMM... HIS AURA IS SO PALPABLE! IT SEEMS TO ELECTRIFY THE AIR, ALMOST BECOME VISIBLE!
AND SHORTLY...
FIRE...SO HYPNOTIC...
WE MUST BEGIN.
BEGIN?
7

THE FIRE AS HYPNOTIC. BUT YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHY I'M HERE, HAVE YOU? SHALL WE BEGIN WITH YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY?
...HYPNOTIC, YES. SHOULD I BEGIN WHEN MA DIED? I WAS ONLY SIXTEEN, AND ME AND DADDY LOVED HER A WHOLE LOT. BUT HE JUST TOOK UP WITH THIS NEW... WOMAN...
SHE WAS OH SO LIVELY, AND CHARMING, AND... EVIL.
DADDY CALLED HER HIS 'SOURCE', HIS 'INSPIRATION.' I SAW HER AS A MINDLESS PARASITE, A REAL CREAM PUFF. SHE HAD NO SUBSTANCE OF HER OWN, SO SHE FED OFF DADDY'S CREATIVITY.
YEAH, BUT I GUESS THEY WERE GOOD FOR EACH OTHER, DESPITE MY DOUBTS, 'CAUSE HE DID HIS GREATEST WORK THEN-- BEAUTIFUL DRAWINGS OF ELATION AND WHIMSY, INSPIRED BY LOVE, I GUESS.
YOU SOUND BITTER.
THEN SHE DIED, AND HE WENT PROGRESSIVELY MADDER, AND HIS DRAWINGS GOT MADDER-- AND UGLY TOO.
NOW HE HIDES AWAY IN HIS TOWER AND DOES GOD KNOWS WHAT.
HMMM, THE FIRE'S SO ANIMATED.
LIKE IT'S MOCKING YOU.
ME?
PFT!


YES, ADRIENNE. YOU'VE TOLD ME HALF-TRUTHS. CARE TO TELL ME THE PARTS YOU LEFT OUT? IF NOT, I WILL EXPOSE YOUR SECRETS... IN OTHER WAYS.
HOW DID YOU?! OH, ALL RIGHT.
"IT WAS THAT ONE NIGHT...
"I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T TRUST MY STEP-MOTHER. ONE NIGHT I BLEW UP AT HER--
"--TOLD HER SHE WAS EVIL, A VAMPIRE WHO STOLE ALL DADDY'S ENERGY.
"AND I TOLD HER TO GET OUT FAST OR I'D MAKE SURE SHE'D SOON HAVE AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT.
"SHE GOT OUT ALL RIGHT.
"AS FOR MY EMPTY THREAT-- IT CAME TRUE.
"SOMETIMES YOU SAY THINGS YOU REGRET."
9

IT'S JUST THAT... I WAS SO SURE SHE WAS EVIL. I GUESS I WAS WRONG. IT WAS HER DEATH AND ABSENCE THAT BROUGHT ON HIS MADNESS
I AM THE VILLAIN HERE I... I KILLED HER! I FORCED HER OUT!
WAIT.. SOMETHING IS VERY, VERY WRONG HERE.
OH! SOMETHING PINCHED ME! STOP THAT!
DON'T YOU SEE THEM! THE GHOSTS!
NO.. ADRENNE, YOU MUST BE MORE TUNED IN TO THEM... I SEE NOTHING YET..
#@!
?!%!
YIKE!
10

SUDDENLY THE ROOM IS ALIVE. A KALEIDOSCOPIC CORNUCOPIA OF TIMELESS MEMORIES, NAMELESS DREAMS, HALF-SPOKEN MYTHS, FORGOTTEN NIGHTMARES...FLIRTING, FROLICKING...
THEY'VE MULTIPLIED! THERE'S MORE TONIGHT THAN EVER BEFORE!
BY THE SWIRLING TIDES OF IKONN BY THE POWER OF MY MENTOR THIS CONTAINMENT SPELL HOLDS ALL AT BAY AND THERE ALL MANNER OF BEINGS WILL STAY!
NO! DON'T HURT THEM, PLEASE!
11

THEN WHY AM I HERE, MISS VON MOOR?!
I KNOW... THEY ARE PESTS... BUT STILL, THEY ARE HARMLESS... AND CUTE.
THERE IS NOTHING CUTE HERE! THEY COULD BE DANGEROUS!
WELL, MOSTLY THEY MAKE A MESS BUT SOMETIMES THEY EVEN CLEAN HOUSE AND LEAVE GIFTS AND STUFF.
SEE? THEY'RE SO SHY. OOH! THAT ONE LOOKS JUST LIKE A TOY DADDY GAVE ME WHEN I WAS LITTLE
!!R!
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE NOT JUST AN EXTERMINA-TOR! CAN'T YOU JUST MAKE THEM GO SOMEWHERE ELSE?
12

SOME SORT OF ELEMENTAL. TIP OF THE HAT, EH?
WHO ARE YOU?
AH! AN ENTERTAINER!
STOP.. MAKING ME. LAUGH! I MUST... CONCENTRATE... HA HE, OH... AND *DEAL* WITH THIS!
I REALIZE NOW... THAT I HAVE NOT REALLY LAUGHED... IN FAR TOO LONG... SINCE BEFORE CLEA LEFT. BUT MY BATTLE WITH DRACULA LEFT ME MYSTICALLY BANKRUPT...
OH, GOSH, THEY'VE NEVER BEEN SO FRIENDLY! I MUST GO GET DADDY
HA HA HA
...NOW... MORE THAN EVER.. I SHOULD NOT DROP.

KONNG
...MY... GUARD..!
COME ON, LITTLE STEVIE..
Linkie Linkie
MMMM. OPEN WIDE.
WIDE...
WIDE...

WIDE.
I.
I AM.
I AM STRANGE
SLOW BEATING
HEART SLOWING.
LIFE... UNWINDING
I AM DOCTOR STRANGE AND THAT IS MY BODY DOWN THERE WITH ITS HEART BEATING SO SLOW IT... I WILL DIE.
SUCH PEACE. BUT DEATH?
NO! I WANT LIFE! I HAVE THE POWER TO..
MUST TRAVEL TO...
ADRIENNE!
WITH A WILL THAT IS NOT HER OWN, ADRIENNE RUNS BACK TO DOCTOR STRANGE'S SIDE.
YES, I AM DYING. THE BLOW HAS MADE MY HEARTBEAT FALTER!
15

MUST SAVE
MY OWN
LIFE!
HEARTBEAT!
HEY! WHAT AM I DOING UP HERE!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE!?
THOSE CREATURES ARE NO MERE ELEMENTALS! THEY WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO SHOCK MY ASTRAL FORM OUT OF MY BODY!
THEY WERE NOT WHAT THEY APPEARED TO BE AND I AM A FOOL!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, IT'S GETTING EVEN WEIRDER AROUND HERE!
16

I WILL HAVE THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO AND ITS ALL-REVEALING LIGHT.
WOW! A THIRD EYE!
...EXPOSE ALL THAT HIDES HERE!
THAT EBONY TOWER HOLDS THE ENERGY BEHIND THIS!
THIS WILL BE DANGER-OUS. YOU WAIT DOWN HERE!
[redacted] THAT HAS BEEN INCUBATING AND GROWING..
...AND BREWING AND FESTERING... FOR FAR TOO LONG!

OH, SPECS. CAN'T SEE TOO GOOD NO MORE OLD MAN BUT CAN STILL PUSH A PENCIL.
AND FOR YOU, MY DEAR DEAD WIFE, THERE WILL BE HOOVES AND SCALES AND SPIKES...
MAN NEEDS HORNS... HORSE NEED WINGS...
18

EH?
STOP! SIR! PLEASE, YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU DO!
OH.
I CAN'T SEE YOU BUT I KNOW WHERE YOU ARE!
UNGH!
INTENSE! THE SOURCE MUST BE POWERFUL, INDEED! THE ENERGY SURGES THROUGH HIM LIKE A MAN POSSESSED!

BY THE OMNIPOTENT OSHTUR! I SEE THIS CREATURE OF HATE! OF THIS HATE YOU HAVE SUCH WEALTH TURN THIS HATE UPON YOURSELF!
AAOH... YOU HURT MY HANDS! THIS OLD MAN HAS KNOWN TOO MUCH PAIN ALREADY. I'LL GET YOU. I'LL SET STRONGER PETS ON YOU.
I CAN'T... FIGHT THE OLD MAN... MUST SEPARATE THE DEMON FROM ITS VESSEL! GOT TO HURRY... IT'S DRAWING AWAY MY LIFE ENERGY!
BY THE ALL WISE VISHANTI BY IKONN'S RITUAL OF EVER-SHIFTING SAND LET THIS SOUL HAVE WHAT IS IT'S OWN...

...AND LET THE DEMON BEGONE FROM THE MAN!
OH... EH?
CURSE YOU, SORCERER, YOU'VE DRIVEN ME FROM THIS MOST CREATIVELY FERTILE HOST! I MUST SEARCH FOR ANOTHER.
IT'S BEEN A LOVELY MARRIAGE.
COME, MY PETS.
GOODBYE, LOYAL HUSBAND!
GOODBYE, DEAR.

HER CONSCIOUSNESS WILL DISSIPATE BEFORE SHE FINDS ANOTHER VESSEL... SOME POOR SOUL... TO FILL.
VON MOOR! ARE YOU OKAY?
I...
IS IT OVER?
IT IS OVER.
HE IS NO LONGER MAD. HE WILL RECOVER.
BUT HE MAY NEVER CREATE WITH SUCH GENIUS AGAIN. THAT WENT WITH THE MADNESS, AS SO OFTEN IT DOES.
DADDY!
SHE DID THIS TO HIM...
IN LIFE SHE WAS HIS INSPIRATION... AND HIS BANE. BUT A SPIRIT HAS NO MORALITY.
ALL THESE YEARS YOU THOUGHT YOU DROVE HER AWAY...
BUT SHE NEVER REALLY LEFT. NOT TILL NOW.
22